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Application N . 09/801,428  
Amendment C

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The polyhedral shape of the crystal 102 is designed to provide symmetric amplification and beam propagation. As a result, the laser gain medium is completely bi-directional meaning that it can be used to provide similar gain in either propagation direction. The beam 120 is reflected within the crystal within approximately the same plane as the incident beam, which is enabled in the planar polyhedral structure of the crystal 102. Furthermore, it is noted that the crystal may have a variety of specific configurations, the embodiments described herein shown by way of example. It is further noted that according to many embodiments, the geometry of the crystal 102 is designed such that the beam 120 does not propagate directly between parallel reflecting surfaces. In other words, the beam does not propagate between parallel reflecting surfaces without reflection from an intervening reflecting surface in between the parallel reflecting surfaces. By way of example, according to the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, the beam 120 does not propagate directly between parallel reflecting surfaces 108 and 112 without first reflecting off of intervening reflecting surface 110, which is between parallel reflecting surfaces 108 and 112 in the beam path.